

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 064181  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00  
DODE-00 SIG-01 /060 R

DRAFTED BY OSD/ISA:HDUNLOP;EUR/RPM:EREHFELD  
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:HAHOLMES  
SECDEF:HBROWN  
EUR/WE:BMCKINLEY

-----230702Z 049927 /17

R 230225Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ROME  
INFO USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064181

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, OCON, AWACS, MILI, IT

SUBJECT: NATO AEW: LETTER TO MOD LATTANZIO FROM SECDEF

PLEASE TRANSMIT FOLLOWING LETTER TO ITALIAN MOD  
LATTANZIO (BEGIN TEXT):

MARCH 22, 1977

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

I AM LOOKING FORWARD VERY MUCH TO SEEING YOU IN BRUSSELS  
LATER THIS WEEK, AND AM PLEASED THAT ARRANGEMENTS ARE  
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BEING MADE FOR A PRIVATE MEETING BETWEEN US.

AS YOU KNOW, A GREAT DEAL OF PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED  
ON THE PRINCIPAL POINT FOR MINISTERS' CONSIDERATION AT  
THAT MEETING, NATO AEW. I BELIEVE WE HAVE REACHED THE  
POINT WHERE MINISTERS CAN AGREE AT BRUSSELS THIS WEEK TO  
ANNOUNCE THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAM AND THEIR DECISION

TO SUPPORT ITS ENDORSEMENT THROUGH APPROPRIATE NATIONAL PROCESSES. I AM CONFIDENT THAT IF WE AGREE TO THIS, SUCCESS FOR THIS ESSENTIAL ALLIANCE PROGRAM WOULD BE ASSURED.

I UNDERSTAND THE STATUS OF YOUR DEFENSE BUDGET MAY MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR ITALY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCUREMENT PHASE OF NATO AEW. HOWEVER, I KNOW YOU APPRECIATE THE UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION WHICH NATO AEW COULD MAKE TO THE ALLIANCE IN ENHANCED DETERRENCE, EARLY WARNING, AIR AND SEA DEFENSE CAPABILITIES, AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE HAVE PROVIDED YOUR STAFF WITH ANSWERS TO A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL QUESTIONS RAISED CONCERNING THE OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES OF THE PROPOSED NATO AEW SYSTEM. I AM THEREFORE HOPEFUL THAT ITALY WILL FIND A MEANS TO PARTICIPATE FULLY. IF AN ITALIAN CONTRIBUTION TO PROCUREMENT IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE PROGRAM PROVES IMPOSSIBLE, PERHAPS ITALIAN PARTICIPATION COULD BE ARRANGED IN SOME FORM SUCH AS USER REIMBURSEMENT.

A STRONG STATEMENT FROM YOU ACKNOWLEDGING THE POLITICAL AS WELL AS MILITARY IMPORTANCE OF THE PROGRAM AND INDICATING THAT YOU ARE PREPARED TO PUT IT BEFORE YOUR AUTHORITIES FOR ENDORSEMENT THROUGH YOUR NATIONAL PROCESSES WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT AND VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM. ITALY, AND ALL HER ALLIANCE PARTNERS WOULD, I BELIEVE, BENEFIT FROM SUCH AN ACTION ON YOUR PART. I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU AND TO THE BEGINNING OF A FRUITFUL COOPERATION  
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BETWEEN US IN THE INTEREST OF THE DEFENSE OF OUR TWO NATIONS AND OF THE ALLIANCE.

/S/ HAROLD BROWN

END TEXT. SIGNED LETTER FOLLOWS.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AWACS, AIR DEFENSE, TEXT, ALLIANCE, WARNING SYSTEMS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, MEETINGS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 23-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE064181  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** HDUNLOP;EUR/RPM:EREHFELD  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 3190aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3021763  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NATO AEW: LETTER TO MOD LATTANZIO FROM SECDEF PLEASE TRANSMIT FOLLOWING LETTER TO ITALIAN MOD LATTANZIO (BEGIN TEXT)  
**TAGS:** OCON, MILI, IT, NATO, (BROWN, HAROLD), (LATTANZIO, VITO)  
**To:** ROME  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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